

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02

IO-13 /080 W

-----161127Z 061829 /21

R 161042Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5629

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 344

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT SF

SUBJ: DETAINEE DIES AT JOHANNESBURG POLICE HEADQUARTERS

1. YOUNG BLACK DETAINEE FELL TO HIS DEATH FROM TENTH FLOOR OF JOHANNESBURG POLICE HEADQUARTERS FEBRUARY 15 WHEN, ACCORDING TO POLICE STATEMENT, HE CLIMBED OUT WINDOW TO ESCAPE OFFICERS WHO WERE INTERROGATING HIM. DETAINEE WAS MATTHEWS MABELANE (AGE 23), FORMER STUDENT IN SOWETO, WHO WAS DETAINED JANUARY 27 UNDER SECTION SIX OF TERRORISM ACT. MABELANE IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE EIGHTEENTH PERSON TO HAVE DIED IN POLICE CUSTODY SINCE LAST MARCH.

2. WHILE MOST INTERROGATING ROOMS HAVE BARRED WINDOWS, THE ONE IN WHICH MABELANE WAS BEING QUESTIONED DID NOT. ACCORDING TO PRESS, POLICE COMMISSIONER MAJOR GENERAL W. H. KOTZE SAID MABELANE "JUMPED ON TO A CHAIR, FORCED THE WINDOW OPEN, AND CLIMBED ON TO A 130 CM FURROWED LEDGE THAT RUNS ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING. OTHER POLICE OFFICERS IN THE ROOM WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE. MR. MABELANE WAS SITTING CALMLY AT A TABLE MOMENTS EARLIER. HE RAN ALONG THE LEDGE AND FELL AS A POLICE

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OFFICER CALLED THROUGH THE WINDOW FOR HIM TO COME BACK."

3. MRS. HELEN SUZMAN (PROP) IS QUOTED BY PRESS AS SAYING THAT DEATH RATE AMONG DETAINEES HAD REACHED "ALARMING PROPORTIONS. IT IS TIME THERE WAS AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY. THE (JUSTICE) MINISTER'S EXPLANATION IS USUALLY THAT THE DETAINEES ARE COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO KILL THEMSELVES RATHER

THAN GIVE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION. IF SO, WHY ARE THERE NO
SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT SUICIDES?"
JOHNSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, DEATHS, PRISONERS, INTERROGATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN00344
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770055-0048
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770237/aaaabgig.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: adf3a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3308951
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETAINEE DIES AT JOHANNESBURG POLICE HEADQUARTERS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF, (MABELANE, MATTHEWS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/adf3a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009